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Agenda item 100

Environment and sustainable development

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled:

"Environment and sustainable development:

"(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21;

"(b) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;

"(c) Convention on Biological Diversity;

"(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;

"(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa;

"(f) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on the item at its 18th to 22nd, 30th, 33rd and 34th meetings, on 22, 25 and 26 October and 2 and 8 November 1999. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in eight parts, under the symbol A/54/588 and Add.1-7.

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(A/C.2/54/SR.18-22, 30, 33 and 34). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, from 6 to 8 October (see A/C.2/54/SR.3-8). An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item will be given in the addenda to the present report, as follows:

Sub-item	*Addendum*
(a)	1
(b)	2
(c)	3
(d)	4
(e)	5
(f)	6
Proposals not related to a specific sub-item	7

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 100. Environment and sustainable development

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its twentieth session[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 (A/54/212)

Report of the Secretary-General on international institutional arrangements related to environment and development (A/54/468)

Letter dated 14 April 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ashgabat Declaration and the joint statement adopted at a meeting of the Heads of State of the five countries held on 9 April 1999 (A/54/80)

Letter dated 17 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the Twenty-first Century, adopted by the Hague Appeal for Peace Conference, held at The Hague from 12 to 15 May 1999 (A/54/98)

Letter dated 26 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the Third Summit Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Alliance of Small Island States, issued at United Nations Headquarters on 25 September 1999 (A/54/402)

Letter dated 29 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration and Ministerial Statement on the South Summit, adopted at the twenty-third annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters on 24 September 1999 (A/54/432)

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/54/25 and Add.1).

Letter dated 29 September 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of Brazil, Finland and Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of Rio de Janeiro and the document entitled "Priorities for action", adopted at the first Summit of Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, held at Rio de Janeiro on 28 and 29 June 1999 (A/54/448)

Letter dated 15 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 23 September 1999 (A/54/469-S/1999/1063)

Letter dated 4 November 1999 from the representatives of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Moscow Declaration of Heads of States Parties to the Treaty on the Customs Union and Unified Economic Space, signed in Moscow on 26 October 1999 (A/54/535)

Letter dated 12 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Cameroon addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of the Summit of Central African Heads of State on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests, held at Yaoundé from 12 to 17 March 1999 (A/C.2/54/5)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken in the United Nations system to accelerate progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (A/54/131-E/1999/75)

(b) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (A/54/132 and Add.1-E/1999/80 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon (A/54/135-E/1999/88)

Report of the Secretary-General on recommendations on institutional arrangements for disaster reduction activities of the United Nations system after the conclusion of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (A/54/136-E/1999/89)

Report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction: successor arrangements (A/54/497)

Letter dated 4 November 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/54/7)

(c) Convention on Biological Diversity

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (A/54/428)

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Letter dated 26 October 1999 from the President of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its fifth session to the Chairman of the Second Committee (A/C.2/54/6)

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (A/54/96)

(f) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Letter dated 29 September 1999 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Second Committee (A/C.2/54/4)

4. At the 18th meeting, on 22 October, introductory statements were made by the Director of the Regional Office for North America of the United Nations Environment Programme and the representative of the Energy and Transport Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs under sub-item (a) (see A/C.2/54/SR.18).

5. At the 20th meeting, on 25 October, introductory statements were made by the Executive Secretary of the secretariat for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, under sub-item (e), and the Executive Secretary of the secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity, under sub-item (c) (see A/C.2/54/SR.20).

6. At the 21st meeting, on 25 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement under the item as a whole and under sub-item (d) (see A/C.2/54/SR.21).

7. At the 30th meeting, on 2 November, the Assistant Director of the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement under the item as a whole (see A/C.2/54/SR.30).

8. At the 33rd meeting, on 8 November, the Director of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction secretariat of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs made an introductory statement under sub-item (b) (see A/C.2/54/SR.33).